

Management Committee

Date: 22 June 2022

Agenda Item:



Area Community Planning Groups – April 2022 Meetings

1. Purpose

This paper presents key matters arising during the Area Community Planning Group meetings that were held virtually in April 2022.

2. Recommendations

The Management Committee is asked to:

- a) note the Highlights detailed at section 4 of the report; and
- b) note the position with relation to the various Vice-Chair roles as outlined at section 4.1.

3. Background

There are four Area Community Planning Groups, one in each of the Council's administrative areas (Bute and Cowal; Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands; Helensburgh and Lomond; and Oban, Lorn and the Isles).

The meetings this time were brought forward to April to allow them to take place prior to the Local Government Elections which were held on 5th May 2022. All meetings were held on a virtual basis using Microsoft Teams. Prior to the meetings discussion took place with the Area Chairs and Vice Chairs and a standard agenda template was agreed. There was good attendance at all 4 meetings by a variety of partners.

4. Highlights

All groups considered:

- CPP Management Committee Update
- Climate Change

Minutes from the latest meeting of the Climate Change Working Group were provided as a basis for discussion.

Highlights from specific meetings were as follows:

Bute & Cowal

The Group appointed Alastair Moodie (Lochgoil Community Council) as Vice-Chair.

A number of partner updates were provided with lots of useful information being shared.

The Community Focus item came from PC Laura Evans who provided a presentation on the work of Police Scotland to highlight and reduce incidents of fraud. She spoke about the increase in the incidences of fraud since the beginning of the Pandemic and highlighted the impact that being a victim of fraud can have. PC Evans encouraged people to sign up to Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and to complete the free training which is available.

Reeni Kennedy-Boyle from Fyne Futures spoke about their work as lead member of the Employability Partnership advising that they hoped to strengthen partnership working with the Community Learning Service to ensure all partners were working effectively together. She also provided information in relation to work with Inspiralba on a successful project for school leavers and those up to 24 years of age.

Ann Campbell provided information on the food growing partnership which was being taken forward by Dunoon Community Development Trust in conjunction with Kirn Primary School. Ann also updated on the Dunoon Bothy project where e-bikes would be available for community members to test.

Discussion also took place on the implementation of electric vehicle charging points and the barriers around this with it being agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting with appropriate officers invited to attend.

Helensburgh & Lomond

The Group heard a number of interesting updates from partners. Rhona Grant, Live Argyll – Community Learning Service, provided an update on behalf of Thomas Guy-Conroy on the progress of the partnership working to address youth anti-social behaviour issues which had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Group. She confirmed that a meeting had taken place between relevant partners to discuss events and safe places for young people to attend. Rhona provided examples of potential events including a Thursday night disco, and a midnight football league. She noted that there were costs associated with hosting events such as these,

consequently funding sources would have to be identified. She advised that the partners were currently focusing on engaging with young people to build relationships and identify their priorities. A number of partners in attendance expressed an interest in becoming involved in the various initiatives which will be progressed.

Information was provided on the work to ensure that the area was ready for the forthcoming tourist season with it being noted that Friends of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs had been successful in securing alternative funding for the Two Lochs project which will ensure the provision of temporary toilet facilities and the employment of seasonal wardens.

Jayne Burnett from Visiting Friends provided some details on the service that they provide with it being noted that they were happy to get referrals for new members and were continually looking for volunteers. Updates were provided in relation to the work being carried out by Time for Change Argyll and Bute and Plastic Free Helensburgh and there was some information provided on initiatives being undertaken by Helensburgh Community Council and Fun First.

The Community Focus item was provided by Chris Casey, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service where he gave a presentation on the partnership approach to water safety. The presentation provided an overview of the multi-agency approach to water safety which included raising water safety awareness; delivering preventative measures; identifying and addressing water safety risks in the area; and reviewing incidents and making interventions to prevent the reoccurrence of similar events. The presentation also provided information in relation to water fatalities statistics; an overview of Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy; the aims of the Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group; the actions arising from the work of the PAWS group; and the requirements of the partners involved in the PAWS group.

Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands

The meeting was well attended with a number of updates from partners. Neil MacFarlane from Transport Scotland provided an update on the current works being undertaken and updated on issues that were highlighted at the previous meeting. A meeting was scheduled for later in the day to discuss the issues at Burnbank Street in Campbeltown.

Sergeant Shaw, Police Scotland provided the update for this meeting and noted that he had fed back on issues highlighted previously. Concerns around parking in Campbeltown were raised and Sergeant Shaw agreed to raise this with the local Inspector. He also advised that additional actions and patrols were being put in place to target youth anti-social behaviour in the area with Brian Smith from the

Community Learning Team advising that he would be keen to work with Police Scotland to look at ways to combat this.

Brian Smith advised that a new local youth worker would be starting in post in May and noted the work ongoing around youth engagement and the planned Scottish Youth Parliament roadshow event to investigate local youth issues across the area.

The Group considered an update from Jen Broadhurst, Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The update highlighted an increased number of queries to the service, with a particular rise in queries relating to the increasing cost of living and debt, specifically energy debt. It was noted that this had resulted in additional funding being obtained for the employment of a part-time energy debt specialist to increase the debt support provided.

Valerie Nimmo from Campbeltown Community Council advised that the Campbeltown Community Action Plan had now been completed. She also advised that new inclusive play equipment would be installed in the Jock's Adventure Playground and that a Jubilee Tea was being organised for elderly people in Campbeltown.

The Community Focus item was a presentation by PC Laura Evans, Police Scotland. The presentation provided an overview of the work being undertaken by Police Scotland to highlight and reduce incidents of fraud. Background information was provided around fraud and the increase in incidences of fraud since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. PC Evans also highlighted the impact that being a victim of fraud could have on individuals, and emphasised that anyone could be a victim of fraud.

The Group considered a presentation by Lynda Mitchell, ALIEnergy, in relation to the ALIEnergy Affordable Warmth Service. The presentation provided background information in relation to ALIEnergy, their aims, their staff, and the geographic area covered by the Affordable Warmth Advice Service. The presentation also provided statistical information in relation to fuel poverty across Scotland; a breakdown of the percentages of people suffering from fuel poverty by local authority region; examples of fuel poverty in everyday life; examples of how the energy advice process could assist people to access support; and contact details for the Affordable Warmth Team. Further information was provided around how ALIEnergy were able to measure the impact of the support provided to clients, both new and existing. Recent examples were also provided of how ALIEnergy had been able to assist clients in accessing support through various funds. The presentation also included information around ALIEnergy's social media channels, as well as contacts details for referrals or client enquiries.

The Group considered a verbal update from Don McKillop, Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac). He provided an update on the commencement of the summer timetable following a difficult winter period as a result of bad weather and technical challenges with the fleet across the network. He also noted that there had been a challenging dry dock period, with extended durations for many vessels.

The Group considered the appointment of a Vice-Chair following the resignation of the previous appointee. Unfortunately there were no nominations received for the position and it was agreed to carry the item forward to the next meeting.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles

The Group considered a number of updates from partners in attendance.

The Group considered an update from Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which included statistical information on clients receiving Universal Credit and other benefits across the Argyll and Bute area, as well as information on various initiatives that the DWP were involved in.

Consideration was given to a report which provided information on the ongoing work in relation to the Gypsy Travellers Carers Project, which included details on additional funding secured for a number of projects; the development of an action plan to improve the lives of Gypsy/Travellers; the ongoing work of MECOPP to support the community to voice their views for accommodation that is of good quality and is culturally appropriate.

Verbal updates were also provided by Crossroads, North Argyll, Hope Kitchen, Argyll TSI and Argyll College.

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The Group also considered an update on the progress being made in relation to Oban Bay.

The Graduate Staycation Officer, Nathan Gallogley introduced himself to the group and advised that he had recently taken up this position with Argyll and Bute Council. Mr Gallogley provided a short verbal update on the tourism infrastructure within the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area which included information on Environmental

Wardens; waste disposal tanks; the deployment of portaloos; the Ulva ferry on Mull and the support for the new carpark in Tobermory.

4.1 Appointment of Vice-Chair

We are pleased to note that the position of Vice Chair on the Bute and Cowal Group has been filled with Alastair Moodie of Lochgoil Community Council taking on the role. There still remains a vacancy for a Vice-Chair position in MAKI this will be subject of a report to the next meeting.

4.2 Further Actions

It is requested that the Management Committee note the report and the successful meetings held in April 2022.

5.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	Meetings of the Area Community Planning Group held in April covered various Outcomes.
Consultations	No prior circulation of this report.
Resources	No direct resource implications however consideration of the issues raised and following courses of action may have a knock on effect on finance and/or staff resource
Prevention	Contributes to the prevention agenda
Equalities	Contributes toward reducing inequalities

For More Information:

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